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**MAN SENTENCED TO 79 MONTHS IN FEDERAL PRISON FOR
BRIBERY, I.D. FRAUD, AND TRANSPORTING ALIENS IN
DRIVER'S LICENSE SCHEME INVOLVING 900 LICENSES**

DAVID N. KELLEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that RAFET OZOGLU, a/k/a "Mehmet Ak," was sentenced late yesterday in Manhattan federal court before United States District Judge KIMBA M. WOOD to 79 months in prison for his role in conspiracies to bribe a public official, transport illegal aliens, and fraudulently obtain identification documents, specifically Washington, D.C., driver's licenses.

According to the Indictment, OZOGLU's statements at the time of his plea, and the evidence at the May 2004 trial of OZOGLU's co-conspirator, Mustafa Ozsusamlar, a/k/a "Mustafa Ozcan," a/k/a "Missta Oscane," as part of the scheme, OZOGLU and Ozsusamlar transported aliens by the van load from the New York area to Washington, D.C., in order to fraudulently obtain the driver's licenses by bribing co-conspirator Gwendolynn Dean, an employee of the D.C. Department of Motor Vehicles, to process the

driver's license applications.

According to the Indictment and evidence at trial, throughout the two-and-a-half year course of the conspiracy, OZOGLU and Ozsusamlar fraudulently obtained more than 900 Washington, D.C., driver's licenses by bribing Dean. Many of those obtaining the Washington, D.C., driver's licenses were illegal aliens, and approximately 75 of the individuals later exchanged their fraudulently obtained Washington, D.C., driver's licenses for New York driver's licenses.

According to the Indictment and evidence at trial, Dean was a window clerk with the Washington, D.C., Department of Motor Vehicles ("DC DMV"). From January 2000 through June 2002, OZOGLU and Ozsusamlar solicited co-conspirators who wished to fraudulently obtain driver's licenses (the "Clients") and transported those Clients from the New York area to Washington, D.C. ("DC"), usually driving the Clients in passenger vans. Most of the Clients were of Middle Eastern, South Asian or Russian descent, and many, it was shown, were illegal aliens.

According to the proof at trial and the Indictment, once in Washington, OZOGLU and Ozsusamlar filled out DC DMV driver's license applications for the Clients, using fictitious DC addresses, and then accompanied the Clients to a DC DMV office and specifically to the window where Dean was working. At the window, Dean processed the Clients' applications, despite the absence of proof of name and date of birth, Social Security

number, and residence, in exchange for cash payments from OZOGLU and his co-conspirators. After each Client obtained a valid DC driver's license, OZOGLU and his co-conspirators would drive the Clients back to the New York area.

According to the Indictment and evidence at trial, the Clients each paid OZOGLU and his co-conspirators approximately \$1,500 to \$2,000 for this service and OZOGLU and his co-conspirators made at least 70 trips to DC from the New York area as part of this operation.

OZOGLU, 43, was a resident of Brooklyn, New York, until his arrest in June 2002, on these charges. OZOGLU pled guilty to all six charges contained in the Indictment on January 8, 2004.

Ozsusamlar, 61, was a resident of Manhattan until his arrest in December 2001 on other federal charges. He was convicted on all counts on May 14, 2004, after a two-week jury trial. Judge WOOD will likely sentence Ozsusamlar in July 2005. Ozsusamlar faces maximum sentences of 5 years in jail for conspiracy to bribe a public official; 15 years for bribery of a public official; 15 years for conspiracy to commit identification document fraud; 15 years for identification document fraud; 10 years for conspiracy to transport illegal aliens; and 5 years for transportation of illegal aliens. In addition each count carries a maximum fine of \$250,000 or twice the gross gain or loss

resulting from the crime.

Dean, 50, of Washington, D.C., pled guilty to two counts of identification document fraud on March 10, 2003, and on October 31, 2003, was sentenced by Judge WOOD to 57 months in prison for her role in the conspiracy.

Mr. KELLEY praised the extraordinary efforts of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in this case, as well as of the Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, SAC-DC, and the Joint Terrorism Task Force, SAC-DC.

Assistant United States Attorney ALEXANDER H. SOUTHWELL is in charge of the prosecution.

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